WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of visualization of a part of a three-dimensional image, wherein the part is defined by a finite predetermined volume, the center of which is located on an element of interest present in the three-dimensional image.

2.   The method of visualization according to claim 1, wherein that the final three-dimensional image is obtained in the predetermined volume by:

a) selecting a point on the element of interest,

b) creating in the three-dimensional image a volume whose dimensions are predetermined and whose center is the point on the element of interest,

c) making the intersection between the predetermined volume and the three-dimensional image,

d) displaying the part of the three-dimensional image contained in the predetermined volume.

3.   The method of visualization according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined volume can be displaced in the three-dimensional image according to a translational motion, while displaying only the part of the three-dimensional image contained at each instant in the predetermined volume.

4.   The method of visualization according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined volume can be displaced in the three-dimensional image according to a translational motion, while displaying only the part of the three-dimensional image contained at each instant in the predetermined volume.

5.   The method of visualization according to claim 1, wherein one displaying the part of the three-dimensional image contained in the

predetermined volume as well as any other part of the three-dimensional image not contained in a cylinder, with the predetermined volume, of section identical to the section of the predetermined volume and of infinite length, and in that any part of the three-dimensional image not contained in the cylinder is displayed in degraded mode.

6.   The method of visualization according to claim 2, wherein one displaying the part of the three-dimensional image contained in the predetermined volume as well as any other part of the three-dimensional image not contained in a cylinder, with the predetermined volume, of section identical to the section of the predetermined volume and of infinite length, and in that any part of the three-dimensional image not contained in the cylinder is displayed in degraded mode.

7.   The method of visualization according to claim 1, wherein once a part of the three-dimensional image is visualized in the predetermined volume, the dimensions of that predetermined volume can be modified by an operator.

8.   The method of visualization according to claim 2, wherein once a part of the three-dimensional image is visualized in the predetermined volume, the dimensions of that predetermined volume can be modified by an operator.

9.   The method of visualization according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined volume is a sphere whose diameter is equal to half the width of the three-dimensional image display window.

10.   The method of visualization according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined volume is a sphere whose diameter is equal to half the width of the three-dimensional image display window.

11. The method of visualization according to claim 2, wherein once the point is selected on the element of interest, a translation of the three-dimensional image is made, so as to place the point in the center of the three-dimensional display window.

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12. The method of visualization according to claim 2, wherein the point is selected by means of a cursor.